

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-47 are pending in the application. Claims 27-47 have been added in this Amendment and read on the elected species. Consideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated June 15, 2001, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement between the following:

Species A-Figures 1-9;

Species B-Figures 10-13;

Species C-Figure 14;

Species D-Figure 15;

Species E-Figure 16;

Species F-Figure 17; and

Species G-Figures 18-19.

Applicant, through its attorneys, elects Species G-Figures 18-19 with traverse. In the originally filed claims, claims 1-10 read on Species G; claims 11-17 read on Species A; claims 18-22 read on Species B; claims 23-24 read on Species C, D, and E; claims 25-26 read on Species F; and claim 18 is generic to Species B, C, D, E, and F. It is submitted that new claims 27-47 read on the elected Species G.

Species G is elected with traverse. Currently claim 38, and 40 are generic to all species. If any generic claim is found to be allowable, rejoinder of all non elected species is requested. It is submitted that the Restriction Requirement identifies Species C, D, and E as being patentably distinct from one another, when Figures 14, 15, and 16 relate to the same embodiment disclosed in the present application, see page 10, lines 25-page 11, line 16. Reconsideration of the Examiner's identification of the various species is requested.

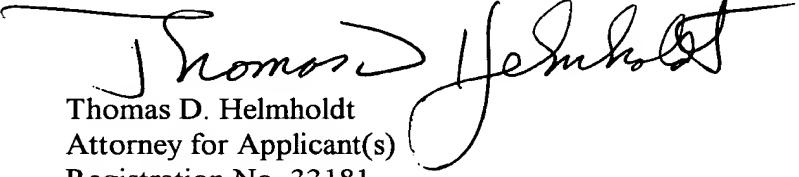
It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully

submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE, WOOD  
& HELMHOLDT, P.C.

  
Thomas D. Helmholtz  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 33181  
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

Dated: July 16, 2001  
TDH/cmp

VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

New claims 27-47 have been added: